

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in cancelled claim 7. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Shiraki, U.S. 5,278,246 and Sanada et al. U.S. 5,886,094

The following rejections are pending:

- A) Claims 1, 2, 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Shiraki; and
- B) Claims 3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shiraki et al. in view of Sanada et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention described in claim 1, as originally presented, is patentable over the cited references; however, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 7, a claim not currently under rejection. Accordingly, these rejections are rendered moot.

Conclusion

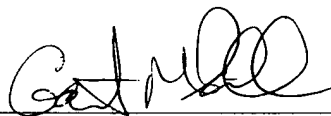
In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (#43,575) at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #43575
Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066 *for*

RCS/GMD/gh
0152-0585P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000